

CLAIMS

1. An integrated message exchange system for collaborative business applications, comprising:

a message transport layer configured to transport messages from at least one sending application to one or more receiving applications;

a business process layer configured to execute business process logic on selected messages processed by the message transport layer; and

a persistence layer, accessible from both the message transport layer and the business process layer, configured to store a reference to each messages processed by the message transport layer.

2. The system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a database, accessible via the persistence layer, for storing a copy of each of the messages corresponding to the message references stored in the persistence layer.

3. The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the message transport layer includes a physical address resolution service, and a transport service.

4. The system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a logical routing service for determining the one or more receiving applications based on the business process logic.

5. The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the business process layer includes a business process engine for executing the business process logic.

6. The system in accordance with claim 5, wherein the business process logic is executed according to one or more business processes stored in a directory accessible by the business process engine,

7. The system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the one or more business processes are accessed by the business process engine based on content of each selected message.

8. In a message exchange system for collaborative business applications, the message exchange system including a message transport layer configured to transport messages from at least one sending application to one or more receiving applications and a business process layer configured to execute business process logic on select ones of the messages processed by the message transport layer, a message persistency arrangement comprising:

a persistence layer, accessible by both the message transport layer and the business process layer, configured to store a reference associated with each messages processed by the message transport layer; and

a database accessible from the persistence layer for storing a copy of each messages corresponding to the message references stored in the persistence layer.

9. The arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein a copy of a message is accessible from the database via access to the corresponding message reference from the persistence layer.

10. The arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein the persistence layer includes a machine-readable medium, and wherein each message reference includes a machine-readable signal.

11. The arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein the message reference includes a message identifier (ID).

12. In a collaborative business application landscape, a method for integrated message exchange, comprising:

- receiving a message from a sending application;
- storing a copy of the message in a database;
- storing a reference to the message in a persistence layer;
- executing at least one business process on the message; and
- based on the message reference stored in the persistence layer, transporting the message to at least one receiving application.

13. The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein transporting the message includes resolving a physical address of the at least one receiving application.

14. The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising accumulating, in the persistence layer, two or more message references of related messages.

15. The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein transporting the message includes:

accessing and grouping the messages associated with the accumulated message references; and

transporting the grouped messages to the at least one receiving application.

16. The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein executing the at least one business process includes:

determining the at least one business process based on the message content;

instantiating the at least one business process in a server; and

executing the at least one instantiated business process with a business process engine.

17. The method in accordance with claim 16, wherein the executing the at least one instantiated business process utilizes the message reference in the persistence layer.

18. The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising, upon executing the at least one business process, sending the message reference to a message transport layer for transporting the message to at least one receiving application.